

The C A S E

OF THE

Right Honourable *William Harboud*, Esq; and Sir *Francis Guybon*, Knight, chosen Members for the Burrough of *Thetford*, to serve in this present Parliament.

The Burrough of *Thetford* is an Ancient Burrough, and by Prescription sends two Burgeses to Represent them in Parliament.

The Right Honourable *William Harboud*, Esq; and Sir *Francis Guybon* are Chosen and Return'd by the Old Corporation

A N D

Sir *Joseph Williamson*, Knight, and *Adam Felton*, Esq; by the New One.

IN the 16th. of Queen *Elizabeth*, The Burrough of *Thetford* was incorporated by the name of the Mayor, Ten Principal Burgeses and Twenty Commoners.

It was directed in the said Charter, That the Mayor and Commoners should, the *Wednesday* next before *Michaelmas* day in every Year, between Nine and Eleven in the Morning, meet in the *Guildhall*, or some convenient place in the said Burrough, and there name two of the Chief Burgeses to the Inhabitants, who are to Elect one of them to be Mayor for the year ensuing.

N O T E, Under this Constitution it continued till 1681. at which time *John Mendham* was Mayor, who having got an Acquaintance with Sir *Lionel Jenkins*, then Principal Secretary of State to King *Charles* the Second, did in the same time of his Mayoralty, endeavour to incline the Corporation, to chuse such Men to represent them as would serve the Designs then on foot; but finding he could have no influence over them, and that the time of his Mayoralty was almost expired; did on the Election Day, being *Wednesday* before *Michaelmas*, absent himself till he thought the time of Election was over, thinking thereby to make void the Election.

Yet notwithstanding, the Commonalty did assemble themselves, and did name two of the Principal Burgeses to be Mayor for the year ensuing, of whom *Wormly Hethersett* (being one) was elected and declared Mayor.

About Eleven of the Clock, *Mendham* (who had absconded himself) came and appeared, and being told they had made choise of *Hethersett*, seemingly approved of it, and made an excuse that he did not come sooner.

Nevertheless *Mendham* (although *Hethersett* had often applied himself to him) refused to swear him Mayor as he ought to have done; and although several *Mandamus's* were sent to him (out of the *King's Bench*) injoyning him to do the same, yet he disobeyed them all.

Whereupon he was brought up the next Term by a Tipstaff to answer his contempt, and was committed in Custody to the Tipstaff, from whom he got away and rid down Post to *Thetford*, and there called together such of the Burgeses, as were of his Party, who Disfranchized two of the Members that were not of their stamp, and swore two new ones in their places, the one of whom stood at that time Excommunicated, and the other *Mendham's* Son, who was not above sixteen years of age, and who did immediately vote a Surrender of the Charter, which they but just before swore to maintain, and it was accordingly Surrendred and Inrolled in *Chancery*.

Afterwards *Mendham* Solicites and gets a New Charter, wherein himself is made Mayor, and such others added to him, as would serve the intent of a Surrender.

N O T E, That at the last Session of Parliament, in a hearing before the Committee of Elections, concerning those that were chosen by vertue of the New; and those that were chosen by vertue of the Old Charter: The Committee did declare, that notwithstanding the Surrender and Inrollment; Those that were returned by vertue of the Old Charter were duly returned.

And upon Report thereof the House did unanimously agree with the Committee.

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